



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

19 January 1962

Honorable Richard B. Russell
Chairman, Armed Services Committee
United States Senate
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Senator Russell:

This morning Senator Symington called my attention to a speech made by Senator Wayne Morse yesterday in which he quoted a Drew Pearson column of January 17, a portion of which relating to Sherman Adams apparently has not been printed by papers carrying Pearson's material. The essence of the article was that I depended upon the opinion of Sherman Adams for a judgment on conflict-of-interest matters and, since in Pearson's opinion Sherman Adams had since been discredited, his opinion on this both delicate and important matter was subject to question. The balance of the article is typical Pearson theme, all of which was discussed yesterday and on many prior occasions and does not warrant comment by me in this letter.

However, for your information, the procedure established by the Eisenhower Administration was one under which Sherman Adams as Special Assistant to President Eisenhower requested the Attorney General to examine the personal affairs of a candidate and render a written opinion as to whether conflict-of-interest existed. This was done in my case. It was not Sherman Adams but the Department of Justice which made the finding. This was done in writing over the signature of the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legal Counsel. The study was penetrating and the written report comprehensive. At the time of my AEC confirmation hearings I asked for and received permission to release to the Joint Committee the Attorney General's report which, as a procedural matter, was

addressed to Sherman Adams. This request was granted. The conclusions of the opinion are included verbatim in the transcript of the hearings which are available to you and to your Committee.

I think the other points covered in the Drew Pearson article quoted by Senator Morse were discussed in detail yesterday.

Yours very truly,

SIGNED

John A. McCone
Director

cc: Senator Symington
Senator Morse